



# If Composting is so Simple, Why isn't everyone doing it?

*Did you know Longwood composts?*



**Compost** is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter and is used for fertilizing and conditioning land.

**Composting is important** because it helps get organic matter **out of landfills** that would produce green house gases if they were left in landfills.

You may have noticed that sometimes a lot of food is left over in front of the dish room as well as in d-hall. Some students may wonder:

Why is all the leftover food in D-hall composted, how is it done, and why do many students not know about it?

All the food from d-hall is composted and then dispersed around campus.

We researched composting at other universities and one university in particular does a great job with **composting; Virginia Tech**. Virginia Tech first implemented composting in January of **2009**. Longwood also started composting in 2009. Tech's composting efforts now have spread to every dining center on campus; diverting over seven million pounds of food waste from landfills. The university has also been informing students on how to compost themselves by making students and staff sort and compost their own waste in specific dining centers.



### COMPOSTING PROCESS

- Food reaches the dish room.
- Food is rinsed into a pulper.
- The pulper then grinds the food and the pulp is then put into bright yellow trash bins.
- These bins are then picked up
- The pulp is taken to one of two compost piles(one on third street on in longwood village).
- The pulp is mixed with plant material
- Then the compost sits until it is needed for use.
- Before the compost is used, it is run through a screener.
- The compost is distributed around campus.



DATE	CANS	POUNDS
8/20-24/18	2 1/4	564
8/27-31/18	9	2,250
9/3-7/18	5 1/2	1,375
9/10-14/18	8 1/4	2,063
10/22-26/18	2	500

This table shows when the cans of pulp were picked up, how many cans, and how much the pulp weighed.



**SUMMARY:** Longwood composts **everything** in d-hall, the napkins are made from recycled materials and can be composted as well. All the compost is returned to campus to help beautify Longwood.

### FUTURE STEPS

Here at Longwood, we hope to compost in more locations and **educate** more students and faculty about composting here on campus. We hope to educate students and faculty through the use of posters and spreading the word about composting around campus.